by floating tenders at different intervals. The Government invited a tender on 30.4.2007 for import of one million tons of wheat. No purchase was made against the tender. A second tender was invited on 26.06.2007 for import of one million tons of wheat and 5.11 lakh MTs of wheat has been ordered to be imported at a weighted average price of US $ 325.59 PMT C&F(FO). The main reasons for non-acceptance of offer under the first tender are as follows:

(i) STC, the agency which was entrusted the work of import of wheat by the Government advised that there are possibilities of softening of prices for arrival beyond August 2007 after the harvest in major wheat exporting countries.

(ii) International Grains Council (IGC) Report of April, 2007 reported a good global crop of 623 million tons against last year's crop of 593 million tons which could have a softening effect on wheat prices.

(iii) The offers received for delivery in the months of July/August were lower than for June/July, indicating lower prices in coming months.

(iv) Declining price trend in the international market at that time.

(v) Domestic procurement was going on and payment of higher prices for imported wheat could have resulted in traders hoarding wheat stocks in the hope of getting higher prices in future, thereby affecting procurement.

Enhancement of agriculture

†*190. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was 67 per cent contribution in GDP of agriculture during the starting of First Green Revolutions which has now been reduced to 18 per cent only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to emphasize on increased investment in agriculture and connected sectors of agriculture during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to change this situation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) According to data compiled by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), agriculture and allied sector accounted for about 47 per cent in India's total GDP at constant 1999-2000 prices during the start of the Green Revolution (1964-65). The same has now come down to about 18.5 per cent in 2006-07 (revised estimates).

(b) and (c) The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan released in November, 2006 envisages that overall agricultural investment would need to be about 16 per cent of agricultural GDP, with public investment contributing 4 to 5 per cent during the Eleventh Plan.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 has also imphasized to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. It involves, *inter alia*, the following crucial elements:

- The State Governments are to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for prioritizing the investment in the sector.
- Introduction of a new scheme for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State Plans. The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.
- Provision of additional resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agricultural research effort.
- New initiatives for skill development for the farming community.

The Government of India has recently approved two schemes for enhancement of foodgrains productivity and production and for improving overall growth of agriculture. These are: (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM), and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for implementing the State and District Plans for agricultural development.

Price for gas from RIL's KG Basin

*191. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had worked out any realistic price for gas from RIL's KG Basin in order to enable them to be more competitive globally;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any interaction has been done with other Ministries in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been set up by the Government to examine and decide issues of gas pricing.

Completed projects pending for traffic

*192. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long pending broad gauge conversion between Rameswaram and Manamadurai is completed in all respects;

(b) if so, whether it is pending to be thrown open for traffic for want of inauguration by a VIP;